

## DWP Response

1. The information you requested is a subset of the figures presented in the published Annual Social Fund Report, for Great Britain. The 2017-18 Scotland figures requested are provided below in the same format and titles as can be found in the Annual Social Fund Report - Annex 1, 2a and 2b.
2. The Regulated Social Fund includes Sure Start Maternity Grant (SSMG), Cold Weather Payment (CWP), and Funeral Expense Payment (FEP). The Discretionary Social Fund includes Budgeting Loan (BL), and Crisis Loan (CL).
3. The number of applications received, the initial decisions, awards, awards as a percentage of initial decisions, initial refusals, gross expenditure, recoveries, net expenditure and the average award for Scotland only in 2017-18, can be found in Annex 1.

### Annex 1: Scotland Social Fund Summary Statistics 2017-18

	Regulated Social Fund			Discretionary Social Fund	
	SSMG	CWP	FEP	BL	CL
<b>Applications received (000)</b>	8	n/a	5	158	n/a
<b>Initial decisions (000)</b>	8	n/a	5	158	n/a
<b>Awards (000)</b>	4	818	3	125	n/a
<b>Awards as % of initial decisions</b>	55	n/a	67	79	n/a
<b>Initial refusals (000)</b>	4	n/a	2	27	n/a
<b>Gross expenditure £m</b>	2	20.5	5	49.9	n/a
<b>Recoveries £m</b>	n/a	n/a	0.004	55.6	6.9
<b>Net expenditure £m</b>	2	20.5	5	-5.7	-6.9
<b>Average award £</b>	508	25	1,372	397	n/a

Cold Weather Payment figures are estimates taken from Departmental records. SSMG, FEP, BL and CL data sourced from the DWP Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

The average Sure Start Maternity Grant award is higher than the award value of £500 to reflect the additional award made for multiple births. There is no requirement to claim Cold Weather Payments.

The Budgeting Loan award figures do not include awards made after review, reconsideration or appeal. However, the gross expenditure figure does include such awards.

For Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Expense Payments, the average award value is calculated by dividing gross expenditure by the number of awards (including awards made on review, reconsideration or appeal).

The average Cold Weather Payment award is the amount paid to each qualifying individual every time an award is made. Qualifying

individuals may receive more than one payment during each CWP season.

For Budgeting Loans, the average award value is calculated by dividing initial expenditure (which excludes the value of awards made on review, reconsideration or appeal) by the number of initial awards. The initial expenditure figure is not shown.

Differences between applications received, initial decisions, awards and initial refusals are due to applications being withdrawn; applicants rejecting or not responding to loan offers; and decisions outstanding at the time of the count.

The net expenditure for Budgeting Loans is negative as total recoveries have exceeded gross expenditure in 2017-18.

The Crisis Loan scheme ended in March 2013; the recoveries shown are in respect of outstanding loans made prior to this date.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

4. The number of awards and the percentage of total awards by claimant group: pensioners, unemployed, disabled, lone parents, employed, others and total, for both Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Expense Payments can be found in Annex 2a.

#### Annex 2a: Scotland Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Expense Payments 2017-18, Awards by Claimant Group

Claimant Group	Sure Start Maternity Grants		Funeral Expense Payments	
	Awards (000)	% of Total Awards	Awards (000)	% of Total Awards
<b>Pensioners</b>	0.0	0.0	0.9	26.9
<b>Unemployed</b>	0.2	4.4	0.5	12.9
<b>Disabled</b>	0.8	18.9	0.3	10.0
<b>Lone parents</b>	0.2	3.8	0.1	2.1
<b>Employed</b>	1.3	30.4	0.0	0.2
<b>Others</b>	1.8	42.5	1.7	47.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

These tables include awards made after review, reconsideration or appeal.

If an award is made to a claimant who received more than one qualifying benefit or tax credit, then the award is recorded under the qualifying benefit or tax credit which appears first in the table.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Awards are rounded to the nearest 100, percentages to the nearest 0.1%.

5. The number of awards and percentage of total awards by qualifying benefit, for both Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Expense Payments can be found in Annex 2b.

Annex 2b: Scotland Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Expense Payments 2017-18, Awards by Qualifying Benefit

Qualifying Benefit	Sure Start Maternity Grants		Funeral Expense Payments	
	Awards (000)	% of Total Awards	Awards (000)	% of Total Awards
Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), Jobseekers Allowance (income-based), Universal Credit and Pension Credit	3.0	70.0	2.7	78.9
Child Tax Credit (at a rate higher than the family element)/Working Tax Credit (which includes a disability or a severe disability element)	1.3	30.0	0.3	9.4
Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit	0.0	0.0	0.4	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

These tables include awards made after review, reconsideration or appeal.

If an award is made to a claimant who received more than one qualifying benefit or tax credit, then the award is recorded under the qualifying benefit or tax credit which appears first in the table.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Awards are rounded to the nearest 100, percentages to the nearest 0.1%.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

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If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)